

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 2005

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 3.16 million metric tons (Mt), which was 10% higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Production for the first 3 months of the year was slightly lower compared with the same period in 2004.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in March was 3.24 Mt, a 16% increase over February. Data for the individual regions were withheld to protect company proprietary data. Total sold or used for January and March was slightly lower than compared with the same period in 2004. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than in February.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer,

because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier to the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock averaged about 210,000 metric tons per month in 2004.

Domestic apparent consumption in 2004 was 38.3 Mt, which was slightly higher than in 2003. Apparent consumption for 2005 was projected to be 38.4 Mt based on annualized sold and used data and estimated imports. Annualized data are based on the current average monthly rate of consumption projected for the remainder of the current year.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Marketable production | | | Sold and/or used | | | Ending stocks ² | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | Florida and North Carolina | Idaho and Utah | U.S. total | Florida and North Carolina | Idaho and Utah | U.S. total | Florida and North Carolina | Idaho and Utah | U.S. total |
| 2004: | | | | | | | | | |
| January-March | 8,160 | 1,020 | 9,180 | 7,630 | 1,310 | 8,940 | XX | XX | XX |
| March | 2,860 | 339 | 3,200 | 2,550 | 434 | 2,980 | 5,750 | 1,720 | 7,470 |
| April | 2,600 | 335 | 2,940 | 2,640 | 415 | 3,050 | 5,720 | 1,640 | 7,360 |
| May | 2,700 | 525 | 3,220 | 2,720 | 384 | 3,110 | 5,680 | 1,780 | 7,460 |
| June | 2,550 | 524 | 3,070 | 2,470 | 338 | 2,800 | 5,750 | 1,840 | 7,590 |
| July | 2,700 | 466 | 3,160 | 2,810 | 426 | 3,210 | 5,750 | 1,880 | 7,630 |
| August | 2,120 | 542 | 2,660 | 2,480 | 505 | 2,980 | 5,430 | 1,920 | 7,340 |
| September | 1,760 | 549 | 2,310 | 1,880 | 406 | 2,280 | 5,150 | 2,060 | 7,210 |
| October | 2,170 | 539 | 2,710 | 2,390 | W | W | W | W | 7,180 |
| November | W | W | 3,530 | W | W | 3,630 | W | W | 7,170 |
| December | W | W | 2,900 | W | 446 | W | W | W | 7,020 |
| January-December | 30,300 | 5,390 | 35,700 | 30,800 | 5,030 | 35,800 | XX | XX | XX |
| 2005: | | | | | | | | | |
| January | W | W | 3,060 ^r | 2,410 | 422 ^r | 2,830 ^r | W | W | 7,130 |
| February | W | W | 2,860 ^r | W | W | 2,790 | W | W | 7,100 |
| March | W | W | 3,160 | W | W | 3,240 | W | W | 6,990 |
| Total | W | W | 9,080 | W | W | 8,860 | XX | XX | XX |

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

| Period | Quantity | Value |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|
| 2004: | | |
| January | 174 | 5,950 |
| February | 100 | 3,680 |
| March | 145 | 5,580 |
| April | 28 | 760 |
| May | 180 | 6,650 |
| June | 146 | 5,700 |
| July | 63 | 1,720 |
| August | 157 | 6,030 |
| September | 118 | 4,990 |
| October | 137 | 5,240 |
| November | 80 | 2,190 |
| December | 150 | 5,470 |
| January-December | 1,480 | 54,000 |
| Total year ³ | 2,500 | 91,300 |
| 2005: ⁴ | | |
| January | 140 | 5,160 |
| February | 143 | 6,190 |
| Total | 283 | 11,400 |

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 ^{e,1} |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Marketable production: | | | |
| Florida and North Carolina | 29.1 | 30.3 | 33.4 |
| Idaho and Utah | 5.0 | 5.4 | 3.4 |
| Total ² | 34.1 | 35.7 | 36.8 |
| Sold or used by producers: | | | |
| Florida and North Carolina | 30.2 | 30.8 | 30.6 |
| Idaho and Utah | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.3 |
| Total ² | 35.4 | 35.8 | 35.9 |
| Yearend stocks | 7.3 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| Exports reported by producers | W | -- | -- |
| Average value per ton | W | -- | NA |
| Imports for consumption ^e | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Average value per ton | \$35.55 | \$36.50 | NA |
| Apparent consumption ^{e,3} | 37.8 | 38.3 | 38.4 |

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - MARCH

(Thousand metric tons)

| Country of destination | Quantity |
|------------------------|----------|
| Australia | 101 |
| Austria | 19 |
| Belgium | 118 |
| Brazil | 85 |
| Colombia | 30 |
| France | 106 |
| Germany | 39 |
| Greece | 57 |
| India | 191 |
| Indonesia | 77 |
| Italy | 16 |
| Japan | 28 |
| Korea, Republic of | 132 |
| Lithuania | 33 |
| Mexico | 290 |
| New Zealand | 164 |
| Norway | 6 |
| Pakistan | 73 |
| Peru | 33 |
| Poland | 333 |
| Portugal | 37 |
| Romania | 89 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 60 |
| Spain | 363 |
| Thailand | 42 |
| United States | 624 |
| Venezuela | 30 |
| Total | 3,180 |

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco.